

Third world subsidizes development projects

by Tarek Razek

Lewis Perinbam addressed the issue of international development and the role of students in development during McGill development week. He emphasized the need for a new definition of development.

Statistics provided by the World Bank indicate that the 'underdeveloped' nations, recipients of benevolent aid from the 'developed' nations, actually pay \$40 billion more to donor countries than they receive in aid.

"Most of this money involves the repayment of debt," said Perinbam, vice-president of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

"The massive debt underlines one of the greatest myths surrounding international development and North-South relations in general. There are donor and recipient nations with the economically wealthy giving to the poor."

The flow of resources is not from the wealthy to the poor nations, but the other way around. One quarter of the world's population enjoys four-fifths of the world's resources.

Perinbam, who helped found Canadian University Students Overseas (CUSO) and has been involved in CIDA since 1974, pointed out that in the duration of his lecture (about two hours), "6000 children will die of preventable disease and every newborn American will consume about 25 times as much as (his or her) third world counterpart."

"These are some of the ugly and dangerous facts of the twentieth century—the century of progress."

There is a tendency to relegate the third world to an inferior status because it is, in general, economically and technologically poor. Yet economic poverty does not reflect on cultural poverty or prosperity. Since in effect, "the poor nations subsidize the rich by \$40 billion," said Perinbam, "we must place the developing nations in a different context."

From reading high school history texts, one could come to the conclusion that the industrialized nations decided to venture outward one day and discover the rest of the world.

"Ever since Western science and technology became dominant, we've had a distorted historical world view," said Perinbam. The Koreans discovered moveable type 200 years before Gutenberg. The Arab-Islamic Empire provided Europeans with advanced algebra (an arabic word), advanced medical treatises and translated Greek philosophy which would have been lost otherwise.

But with the advent of colonial-



Photo courtesy of McGill International

Members of the student panel, Lewis Perinbam and Eugene Donefer, director of McGill International

ism, most Arab nations had their agricultural systems altered to suit the needs of the colonial powers and had their political systems disrupted. The effects of the colonial era are still very salient.

According to Perinbam, "we still live in an exploitative relationship with most of the third world. We need a new vision in international development, one founded on mutuality and sharing rather than on the colonial model of givers and takers."

He went on to criticise the banking system. "It (the banking system) should be our slave, not our master."

He cited the actions of England and France in the 1930s, when the debt of the United States was eliminated "because the obligations (of the American government) to meet the needs of their people (Americans) was greater than legal obligations to creditors."

This hierarchy of obligations is sorely missed today.

Canada's response to the development challenge has represented two cents of every federal dollar, about \$2.9 billion this year. Most of this is funnelled through CIDA which allocates funds to about 1000 projects. Forty per cent of the money goes through the United Nations (UN) and approximately 200 million goes into NGOs (non-governmental organizations, such as universities).

A new program called CIDA's Youth Initiative Fund promises to open the door wider than ever before for Canadian youth involvement in development projects. CIDA will co-finance youth projects with NGOs to facilitate youth involvement. Perinbam did not provide any information on particu-

lars, and interested students should contact the development groups on campus for more detailed information.

McGill International is one such organization. It facilitates and coordinates international projects and programs for McGill and acts as a liaison with institutions in other countries and with the national and international development funding agencies.

McGill International receives around \$24 million in policy funding which is used to coordinate, direct and maintain development projects. According to Dr. Eugene Donefer, director of McGill International, the advent of the Youth Initiative Program may make possible undergraduate participation in their projects.

Previously, projects were directed by McGill staff in liaison

with third world universities and governments and involved graduate students.

Donefer foresees the possibility of projects directed and organized by undergraduate student groups and views the offer by CIDA as a challenge to undergraduates to propose development initiatives which could be implemented within the framework of existing NGOs.

Two points raised by the student panel questioned the inherent wisdom of exporting the western paradigm through development and the non-existence of development skills instruction at the undergraduate level.

CIDA is known for the failure of many large-scale development projects such as hydro-electric plants, dams and transnational railways. The students noted that development has generally meant integration into the global market economy and the adoption of western values, symbols and material goods.

Whether the presence of concrete housing, plastic waste, and the loss of indigenous culture and traditions represents advancement is questionable. An examination of Western society will reveal high unemployment, housing, discrimination, and crime problems.

Exporting our own societal values may be contradictory to the concept of aid. Development programs could seek a better understanding between different cultures in an exchange of information instead of cultural domination in the race for the development of one global culture.

The other point made by the panel was that students graduate from university with little or no skills in fields related to development. The universities should represent one of the leaders in the international development community. The apparent lack of available undergraduate training leaves students with no link between their knowledge and the opportunities for adequate practical implementation in the field of development. Oddly enough, a study of Canadian universities established that McGill has the largest number of M.Sc. and Ph.D. theses dealing with international development, according to the McGill International newsletter.

Boundless escapades of technology

by Charles Chico Lord

"Space, the final frontier... To boldly go where no man has gone before." Even out of context, a mere Trekkie neophyte can recognize the opening monologue of the television series Star Trek. But Dr. Langdon Winner, a political theorist from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and previously from MIT, sees humanity's final frontiers as more than just a bit of esoteric trivia.

At a Concordia Science College lecture on February 27, Winner skillfully pointed out how this concept of a 'frontier' has since transcended the merely physical and geographical.

According to Winner, "the frontier" has become an integral aspect of the idiom we use to describe and explain scientific inquiry. The concept of a frontier has been instrumental in redefining us and our culture.

"Within our western-oriented, technocratic culture, the frontier has become a powerful metaphor representing that source of knowledge in the universe that we have yet to breach," Winner said. "As well as a source of knowledge, we assume it also to be a source of good."

He claimed that the frontiers of science and technology have come to represent a set of veils, behind which we will discover the means with which to construct our utopia. Thus we believe it is noble and right that our sciences constantly try to push back these frontiers as far as humanly possible.

According to Winner, we tend to overlook our society's passion to see technology as an end in itself. "Not only is this [passion] irrational, but so is our almost frantic drive to go constantly forward." Winner suggests that this trend can have profound if not dire

consequences—the very genetic structure of humanity may eventually hang in the balance, as well as its relationship with evolution itself.

Winner began his examination of the mythology surrounding the technological progress with a question. "Why," he asked, "does each pause to contemplate our situation, in the face of obvious problems, and pressing human needs, later lead to a renewed commitment to these very same endeavours we were hesitant of earlier? For instance, the moratorium in 1983 on recombinant DNA research, and the nuclear weapons freeze were both transient events, and each was later followed up with even greater enthusiasm!"

A partial answer to such irrationality lies in the nature and structure of our institutions. "Universities and their faculty are constantly encouraged to explore the unknown," said Winner. "New discoveries, and new knowledge are to be the goals of anyone seeking reward, recognition, or tenure." Also underlying this system is the belief that if you don't participate in dubious research, someone else will.

According to Winner, the corporate world is organized in the same way. New production strategies are constantly being sought. Marketing has to be on the cutting edge. And "there are dire consequences for the one who is caught selling last year's models," he added.

Although such ideas seem superficial, Winner explained that these deep-seated notions about progress can only be properly understood when put into their historical and cultural context.

In the 17th century, when Puritan colonists began to settle the New World, they believed they were leaving an infected world behind. Their colonial mission was to build

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beating Baldness

by Tara Patel

Our hair is our crowning glory. We dye it, perm it, cut it, grow it and all too often lose it. Beating baldness has become a million dollar business and a barrage of treatments exist for those who refuse to concede to nature's way.

On February 14, Dr. Ralph Wilkinson, chairman of the department of dermatology at McGill gave a lecture entitled "Beating Baldness". The lecture was the third in the 1988-89 series From Bench to Bedside, sponsored by the McGill Faculty of Medicine. The series aims to better inform the public about current treatment options and research developments in different areas of medicine.

Alopecia is the medical term for baldness. It can be caused by fungal infections, syphilis, emotional crises, extreme malnutrition and hormone imbalances such as hyperthyroidism. In these cases it is reversible. When the medical condition is treated, hair growth returns.

The most common form of alopecia, however, is termed "male pattern baldness" (MPB) because it occurs predominately in males and is not reversible. "Women can also be affected," Wilkinson said, "but only if their genetic background is very strong [for alopecia] or as a result of hormonal problems."

Wilkinson pointed to three main factors which significantly influence hair growth and hair loss:

Genetic predisposition is important, influencing the time of onset, the speed, and the degree of MPB. It may be inherited from the maternal or the paternal family.



Dr. Ralph Wilkinson

"Although frivolous," Wilkinson said, "a test for male pattern baldness involving DNA profile diagnosis may be developed and used for infant selection."

Aging is also a cause of hair loss because the hair growth cycle gets longer with age. New hair follicles are produced at a slower rate, resulting in the thinning of the hair.

The third culprit causing hair loss is radiation. "Radiation, such as that used in tumor therapy, wipes out follicles completely, so that the hair can never grow back," said Wilkinson.

There are three types of hair: terminal hair, such as that on the head, which is long and pigmented; the fine vellus hairs found on the nose



Trying to root out the solution to baldness, attendees at Wilkinson's lecture learned, isn't easy

and face; and intermediate hairs.

"The physiology of hair growth is similar to that of fingernails, in that both are extrusion processes," explained Wilkinson. This means that one hair is forced out by the pressure of another hair within the follicle. Hair grows at the rate of about one millimetre every three days. Each strand has a shingle structure, not smooth as we would imagine.

Hair growth is cyclic, with three phases. During the anagen phase a new hair pushes an old one out of the follicle. The hair continues to grow during the catagen phase and finally nests in the follicle during the telogen phase. The cycle lasts approximately three years. "Consequently," assured Wilkinson, "We know that losing our hair is a perfectly natural phenomenon. Each hair falls out after about three years."

In the case of MPB, hair is lost naturally but doesn't grow back. The follicles become more and more atrophic, meaning that they do not promote new hair growth.

"The balding process," explained Wilkinson, "is a miniturization of the hair." The terminal type hairs are replaced by fine vellus hairs due to the transformation of the hormone testosterone to dihydrotestosterone in balding men.

"It is a myth that bald men are sexier due to this hormonal difference," Wilkinson said. Castration does stop the progression of MPB, but it is perhaps not the answer for everyone.

Less extreme forms of surgical and medical treatments are available. For the first time a prescription drug is available for the treatment of MPB. The creme is marketed under the name of Minoxidil or Rogaine. The active ingredient in Rogaine is a vasodilator and was originally developed for the management of high blood pressure. Many patients using the drug began to grow hair, leading to the acciden-

tal discovery of its anti-balding properties.

The drug has been tested in controlled clinical studies in the United States and in Canada. It acts most effectively on the back part of the scalp of people who have been bald for less than ten years, are between 18 and 30 years old and whose bald area has a diameter of less than ten centimetres. "Regrowth of hair follows the natural pattern and it may even be effective in maintaining existing hair," according to Wilkinson.

A disadvantage of Rogaine is that it is a long term treatment. It must be used for four months before any results can be seen and the maximum effects are not apparent for 8-12 months. "If treatment is discontinued, the balding process will re-

commence," cautioned Wilkinson.

When asked about non-prescription instant hair growth formulas such as the Helsinki Formula, Wilkinson responded skeptically: "...it [the Helsinki Formula] has not been put through up-front scientific processes to legitimize it."

Another treatment option is surgery. Three techniques exist to reverse alopecia using hair transplants.

The punch graft technique involves taking hair from regions of permanent hair growth at the back of the head and plugging 5.0 - 1.5 mm grafts of it into recipient punched holes in the bald areas. Wilkinson describes the operation as "an art rather than a medical intervention."

According to Wilkinson, "The operation is quick, effective and

Lorne Greene and Bobby Hull were pleased with the results." He cautioned that the success is largely dependent on the skill of the surgeon due to the difficulty and tediousness of the operation. It involves many sittings and could result in scarring.

Scalp reduction, another technique, refers to the removal of bald areas and the subsequent sewing together of the surrounding skin. Hairs can be moved around using a device called a soft tissue expander. Its reservoir is filled with fluid which is injected into the scalp. Hairs move further apart so the hairless section can be removed. "The advantages of this technique are that one achieves instant hair and that larger areas can be treated," explained Wilkinson.

Finally, the flap technique removes a flap of hair from one area, usually the back, and puts it on the front of the hairline. The problem with this method is that hair from the back is angled to grow in a

different direction from that in the front. This can be avoided using new microsurgery techniques so that the flap can be turned around.

Kenneth Freedman, a representative of a company specializing in hair replacement, is very critical of surgical intervention as a treatment for MPB. His company's technique involves the attachment of new hair to existing hair on the scalp.

Freedman said he has been in the business for 20 years and "there are no great successes with transplant. Even Bobby Hull was not satisfied and had subsequent hair replacement done." According to Freedman, "transplant surgeons are butchering people's scalps."

Yes, you can beat baldness, whether it be through drugs, surgery or hair pieces or castration—but is it really worth it?

UFOs visit McGill

by Nemo Semret

As you read these words, a team of intelligent creatures from outer space could be visiting our planet, observing life on earth for some

possibility which in fact has already happened...at least that is what Stanton T. Friedman would have us believe. Friedman, a nuclear physicist, tried, for two and a half hours last Wednesday, to make 500 people

Flying saucers and giant cigars

Many of the UFOs that we encounter daily are actually IFOs, Identified Flying Objects, which upon examination are found to be



purpose beyond our understanding. They might kidnap you, take body samples, interrogate you in your own language, plant some transmitters in your head to keep track of your future activities, and then dump you back into your daily routine wiping every memory of this encounter from your mind—remarkably similar to what a wildlife warden would do with a member of some endangered species.

This is not another mediocre piece of sci-fi prose, but a very real

gathered in the Fieldhouse auditorium believe his story.

After studying physics up to an M.Sc. at the University of Chicago, and working in various scientific fields—such as "nuclear space systems"—Friedman is now an apostle of a dubious faith: ufology, the study of UFOs. His job is, in his own words, to "take us by the hand through mountains of data" accumulated over the last few decades which have seen the birth and the coming of the "age of ufology."

ordinary phenomena (airplanes, meteors, etc.). In other cases, there is insufficient information to determine the object's nature and origin.

But there is a third category of sightings: an object or phenomena is clearly seen to be a manufactured product, and therefore (according to Friedman), must belong to intelligent beings that are far beyond even the most advanced technology on earth. The "ships" are often round metallic objects, 10 to 200 feet in

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the mcgill Daily

Letters

Letter of the Day

To the Daily:

It is extremely discouraging to note the recent decision of the pizzeria at Gert's to switch from paper plates to plates made of styrofoam. Considering the recent media attention being paid to environmental issues, as well as the efforts of the Daily, QPIRG, and other organizations to sensitize the McGill community to the dangers of styrofoam, we would have hoped that the owners and operators of the pizzeria would know better than to take this retrogressive step. We strongly urge that the use of paper plates be resumed immediately.

Bill Wicken Rhonda Mawhood
Gwen Schulman Kerry Wood
A. Plawutsky Kathleen Webb
Christine Gilsenan Lori Donald
Tamara Myers Charlene Paling
Scott McDonald

An end to the Intifada

To the Daily,

Unfortunately the Palestinian people have had serious wrongs done to them in the past. They are stateless and powerless, with their destiny resting in the hands of the Israeli occupiers. This situation must be rectified. However it will not be undone if the Palestinians continue on their present course. It is safe to say that terrorist tactics, an uprising and even an all out war, will not bring about the creation of a Palestinian homeland. This can only be done through political means. It is also useless to continuously argue who is the worst aggressor, Israel or the PLO. It must be understood by the Palestinians that Israel is in control of the situation. The ball is in the Palestinian court. This follows that the Palestinians must prove to Israel that they are ready for peace. This means an end to the Intifada, an end to terrorism in all of its forms, including attacks on Israeli military installations, and possibly the pursuit of a new Palestinian leadership which is acceptable to the Israeli government. The government of Israel is offering limited autonomy linked with future negotiations to the Palestinian people of the West Bank and Gaza. While this may not meet the full aspirations of the Palestinians, it is an improvement from the situation today. The Palestinians are notorious for demanding everything and ending up

with nothing. It is time they took a step to constructively help their future.

Brent Lokash
Arts U2

Forty years of accomplishments

To the Daily:

I would like to express my approval for both the Israel and Judaism exhibit on the first floor of the McLennan and Redpath Libraries. I feel that the Israel display is refreshing look at Israel today.

Instead of looking at Israel's problem, one is able to see its accomplishments over the last forty years. People such as S. Gualteri (Feb 16, "Israel display is...") portray Israel only in a negative fashion.

It is important to remember that Israel is a young nation that has had many problems but has succeeded in solving many of them. One cannot deny, as the display in the library shows, that Israel has made great leaps in forty years. They have turned a desert into a blooming country. Israel has developed technologically, scientifically, agriculturally, and has done this in a matter of forty years.

This is not to say that Israel is without problems. Yes, a solution must be found for the Palestinian Arabs. Yet this should not be the only side of Israel that we see. Politics should be put aside to see that Israel has accomplished a great deal in its forty years.

Let us not deny Israel's accomplishments. Let's remember that Israelis would like to see a solution to the Israeli-Arab and Palestinian

Frauds of vivisectionism

Most people are unaware that 80 per cent of all animal experiments concern the testing of industrial products (cosmetics, detergents, drain cleanser...). The remaining 20 per cent involve psychology, military and medical experiments. Although medical research represents a small proportion of all animal experimentation, it has become the visible front for the practice.

Animal experimentation is based on two fundamental errors. The first is that in experimental research the artificial recreation of disease is attempted upon a healthy being. But it is obvious that no one can recreate a spontaneous disease in a healthy being, *only some of its symptoms*. Therefore, the information obtained from such methods is how the extrapolation of false and misleading data takes place. An induced cancerous tumor in an otherwise healthy dog will never help us understand another dog's tumor which grew spontaneously. Similarly, an induced cancerous tumor in a human being will never be representative of the cancerous tumor which grew spontaneously within another human being. If experimental research cannot work within the same species, one can imagine the consequences of extrapolating experimental data from one species to another. Because the body of the experimental subject, be it a dog's or a human being's, *did not produce* the tumor in question, it can never be a good model.

The second fundamental error of animal experimentation is in ignoring the differences between species. Since each species is genetically, histologically, physiologically, psychologically, sexually and socially unique, the extrapolation of data from one to the other is unscientific and dangerous.

Concerning cancer research: Normal human cells become cancerigen due to modifications in the human immunological system. A model for human cancer must correspond to the human cancer process. The different animals artificially induced with cancerous tumors will not develop cancer the same way

conflicts so that they can continue to make more leaps forward.

Jonathan B. Glass
Management U1

External Dissent in Israel

To the Daily:

In his letter on Feb 20, Erik Reich seems to be disturbed by student journalists' focus on Israel. He is furious with reports that talk about how Israel deals with internal 'dissent' and ignore the actions of Arab countries. His concern for the Syrians, Iraqis and Algerians is very touching.

Erik Reich, unfortunately, does not realise that his so called internal dissent is in fact external dissent. This dissent is an intifada by an occupied people against a foreign occupying force. It is the nature of the 'dissent' that makes it unique and hence explains the student journalists' inclinations to write about it. So long as Israel continues its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and denies the Palestinians

their basic right for self-determination this intifada and journalistic coverage will surely continue. If Erik Reich is too concerned and bothered with the writings of Derfel and his likes then only by urging an end to the occupations can he hope to limit these writings.

R. Tarazi
U2 Engineering

No 'swine hegemonies' here

To the Daily:

In the words of Mohandas Gandhi, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." Mr. Saul believes that we must choose between animal rights and human rights, a widespread misconception that META hopes to counter. Many animal rights activists support human rights.

Rather than tell people how to lead their lives, as Mr. Saul suggests, META sees its role as one of "encouraging people to consider the consequences of the actions."

More than 40 per cent of the world's tropical rainforest has been destroyed this century, and the main reason is to produce cattle for hamburger meat. Each year, as Mr. Saul knows, 13 500 kilometres of rainforest are burned to make way for cattle. He may not know that 80 per cent of Montréal's water pollution is directly associated with livestock waste.

Ethics are believed to be a uniquely human endowment. It makes little sense to question, as Mr. Saul does, if a lion behaves ethically when he kills for food. A lion, as a carnivore, has no choice but to eat flesh in order to survive. Man does possess a choice.

Native peoples in Canada have little choice but to hunt and fish to survive. META has no desire to tell them how to live. But native people's way of life bears little resemblance to our own. And unlike native people, we do not "respect" the animals we eat. We treat them as commodities to be mass produced for greatest profits in our factory farms.

By extending considerations of animal rights we are securing our concept and practice of justice. It is when we limit rights, as man has been doing since time immemorial, that we are in trouble. In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." We believe that justice for humans alone is a perverse distortion of any real concept of justice.

Anne Vallyley
Arts U3

Hyde Park

humans do. They will simply serve as faulty and thus potentially dangerous models.

Heart disease research: The simulated animal models of human heart disease do not correspond to the naturally occurring human heart disease. Consequently, animal experiments constitute a medical fraud which not only harms animals but people as well. Research of such drugs as digitalis, which lowers human blood pressure, was retarded by animal testing because it had the opposite effect on dogs.

The pharmaceutical industry: We cannot question the fact that some drugs having been tested on animals have proved *later* to be useful for humans. However, no one has yet been able to predict in advance whether or not a drug beneficial to animals will also be beneficial for humans. The real "guinea-pigs" are the first and maybe second generations of humans using the drug for the first time. This explains the endless list of products developed in the labs and presumed safe after extensive animal tests, which eventually prove to be carcinogenic, mutagenic or noxious, e.g. Thalidomide. Animal studies are done for *legal* and not for scientific reasons. They only serve as an alibi for the drug manufacturers, who hope to protect themselves thereby.

True research must involve studying the disease in human tissue cultures and/or through clinical studies of human patients who have naturally come down with the illness in question. In the words of Dr. George Pickering of the University of London, "Any work which seeks to elucidate the cause of disease, the mechanism of disease, the cure of disease, or the prevention of disease must begin and end with observations on man."

Come and see the film that exposes the unscientific foundation of vivisection on March 7 at 19h30 in Union 302.

The Anti-Vivisectionist Committee (META)

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Sealed for freshness

by Arne Mooers

Canadians may soon be urged to buy fresh fruit and seafood from overseas proudly bearing the label "irradiated". Chicken may not be far behind as government regulations concerning this controversial processing technique change. But to the layperson, "irradiated" implies "nuclear", and brings the nuclear question home to the dinner table.

As a process, food irradiation is quite simple. Gamma rays (akin to X-rays) from a radioactive source are allowed to pass through food. The energy breaks chemical bonds without heating the food. DNA is especially sensitive to the rays and fruit flies or their sperm, spoilage microbes and budding bits of tubers can be effectively killed. In this way the food is sterilized, spoiling is inhibited and ripening is slowed

groups. While the so-called endore-duplicated cells are not directly linked with disease, some researchers believe them to be precancerous.

Other studies suggest that deadly spoilage bacteria such as Botulinum could survive irradiation, and cause increased risk since more visible spoilage have been eradicated. Still others report an increase in the release of deadly toxins from irradiated fungi. Finally, there have been worries about so called "unique radiolytic compounds", unstable reactive chemicals that could be cancer-inducing.

Food scientist Michel Gagnon, director of the Canadian Irradiation Centre in Laval, scoffs at claims that irradiation is unsafe.

"Certainly it's safe. The radiolytics? We have been looking for thirty years to try and find them and we cannot," he says. "What we do

tion and spoilage prevention, it could dramatically reduce post-harvest food losses, which may be as high as 25 per cent worldwide. Secondly, it could decrease the incidence of food poisoning, a growing problem in the industrialized world.

In 1987, there were 11 712 reported cases of Salmonella poison-

zen, and a scientist, any tool which can bring an improvement, I'm for."

As for claims that education could yield a higher reduction without the expensive technology, Gagnon replies that "education is great. We teach people how to drive, we test cars, we make people wear seatbelts, we tell them not to drink—and we still get thousands of accidents. We must educate, of course, but here we can help directly, concretely, by offering a safe product."

Pat Adams, executive director for EnergyProbe, is skeptical about this kind of reasoning. In a recent interview, Adams pointed out that contamination was most common at the final preparation site, and irradiation could do nothing to help that.

"Given the fact that poultry is largely consumed in the fast food industry, that's a serious concern," he said.

Food spoilage in tropical countries may reach 50 per cent. While irradiation could help to reduce this, it might require centralization of the food industry in many areas. Stuart Hill, director of ecological agriculture projects at MacDonald College says food irradiation is

being held up as a panacea for world hunger, while the real problem is more often a result of socio-economic problems, like unequal distribution, than technological weakness, such as improper processing or storage.

The Big Question

Ultimately, the debate centers around the nuclear aspect of the technology. Consumers are wary of all things nuclear, and may fear that irradiated food is radioactive.

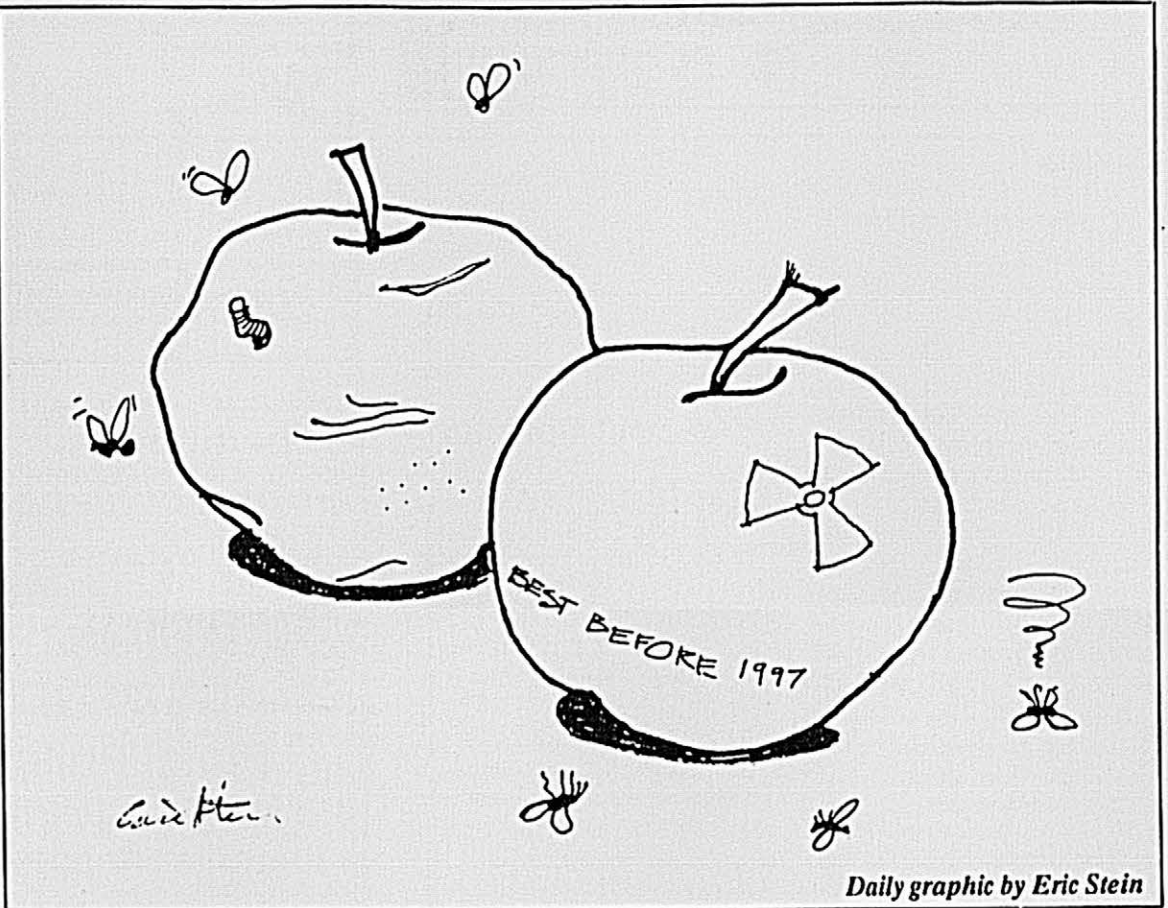
According to Ann Lambert, a graduate student at MacDonald College currently researching pork irradiation, this fear is due to ignorance.

"Look at pasteurization or vaccination," Lambert says. "Both of these were feared when they just appeared. It is just that because of the association with the nuclear industry, the fear is greater. The basis is the same, lack of education."

According to Gordon Edwards, the comparison is unfair and it is wrong to discuss the issue of food irradiation in isolation.

"It is naïve to think that food irradiation offers anything new, as did pasteurization. It does nothing radically new," Edwards says. "As it is presently conceived, the process requires a functioning weapons industry or a nuclear reactor to produce the source [of the radiation]. The nuclear industry is in the doldrums, and this offers great potential PR value."

Ultimately, aside from the ethical questions of technology, food irradiation may be questioned by consumers at a fundamental level. If we feel that nuclear power is here to stay, and is relatively safe and economic, then a spinoff like food irradiation may be greeted with delight. But if we decide that the nuclear industry represents "the ultimate expression of the throw-away society," as does Edwards, then we may question the need for yet a deeper dip into the well.



Daily graphic by Eric Stein

Through disinfestation and spoilage prevention, food irradiation may dramatically reduce post-harvest food losses, which may be as high as 25 per cent worldwide. Big business claims it could also decrease the incidence of food poisoning, a growing problem in the West.

down.

The effects of the process vary with dose and time. At too high a dose, various foods can become foul-tasting, changed in colour or texture, or otherwise ruined. Foods high in fat, such as dairy products, quickly become rancid when irradiated.

Unfortunately, gamma radiation isn't selective with regard to the bonds it breaks. Food is changed subtly, and according to Gordon Edwards, president of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, there remains much controversy as to the effects of irradiation on food.

"There is no way we can know it is safe," Edwards said. "There have been a lot of studies done, and there is a lot of disquieting evidence."

The disquieting evidence is complex, centering around a variety of concerns. In the mid-1970s, Indian researchers reported that malnourished children, monkeys and rats fed freshly irradiated wheat had higher levels of polyploid cells (cells in which the nucleus material has doubled, but the cell has not reproduced itself) than control

find are the same things that are found in foods we have frozen or cooked."

Edwards disagrees. "The argument that we cannot detect them [unique radiolytics], so it is safe, is precisely the same argument that was used to say that low level radiation was harmless. Now, of course, we know that to be entirely false."

Another concern has been vitamin loss. Food irradiation breaks down vitamins, notably vitamins A, E, C and thiamine. This loss is comparable to that when food is cooked or frozen, but since both processes may be combined with irradiation, the problem is compounded.

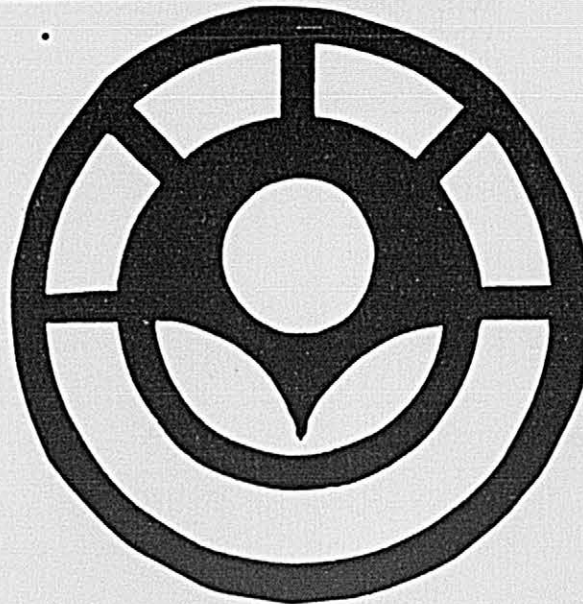
To researchers such as Michel Gagnon, it's all in the dose. "Of course if you irradiate too much, you lose vitamins, just like if you overcook your steak. But with research, we can get it so we lose nothing, or next to nothing."

Benefits, benefits?

Much-touted by industry, food irradiation is seen as having two major benefits. First, by disinfecta-

tion in Canada. Although estimates vary, around 750 people die per year from Salmonella. The food industry claims that irradiating chicken would dramatically reduce these figures.

While it won't solve the problem, according to Gagnon, "we feel we have a tool. As a Canadian citi-



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McGill students: \$3.00 per day; \$7.00 for 3 consecutive days. McGill Faculty and Staff: \$4.00 per day. All others: \$4.50 per day. There is a 25 word limit. There will be a charge of 25¢ for each word over the limit. Boxed ads are available at \$4.00 per ad per day - no discounts on boxing. **EXACT CHANGE ONLY PLEASE.**

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URGENT!!! Lost my glasses the 2/21/89 on corner Penfield/Drummond St. If found, please call Jackie at 845-9607.

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Guys and Lesbians of McGill offer a peer counselling service, Monday through

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385 - NOTICES

Animal Rights means compassion for all creatures, not the least of which are human beings. General meeting: Tuesday, March 7, 17h30, room 310, Union Building. Followed by

Antivivisection film "Hidden Crimes" at 19h30

Imagine yourself taken off the street as you are walking home, to school or to work. You are forced to write 10-page long essays on the joys of earwax. If you don't perform, a cattle prod is placed in your anus, and you are subjected to high voltage stimulation. Think about it.

INTERESTED IN UTOPIAN OR SCIENCE FICTION? Science-Fiction Studies is a Journal Devoted to the Literary criticism of SF and Utopian literature. We have special rates for students, 398-4221 or Room 236, Peterson Hall.

Animal Circuses equal cruelty. Animals are taken from the wild, transported in small cages and subjected to painful training. All are welcome to participate in a circus demonstration, in front of the Montreal Forum, Saturday, March 4.

Ashbury Old Boys! Wine & Cheese. Roy, KDN, DDL, GGT & Vicky. Le Salle Sevres, Le Baccarat Hotel. Monday, March 6, 5:30 - 7:00. Stephanie. 939-9747.

Physical and Occupational Therapy - Ballroom Party!! Friday, March 3 - Union Ballroom - admission only \$2.00. All proceeds to Arthritis Society. Designated driver program.

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...little and green

continued from page 3

diameter, moving at great speeds and performing stunts no human made air or space craft could even dream of. Occasionally, much larger (the size of a couple of aircraft car-

riers put together) cigar-shaped "mother ships" appear.

Countless people, from farmers to airplane pilots and radar operators, claim to have seen these alien

vessels. In some cases, there is even physical evidence: debris from UFO crashes, consisting of allegedly unearthly materials.

Never mind the saucers, did you see the guys who were driving?

With this question projected onto the screen, Friedman moved on to the really juicy second part of his lecture. According to him, the answer is yes.

He said there are more than 3000 reports of visits by humanoid aliens, and hundreds of cases of humans being abducted by extra terrestrial villains.

The culprits are little grey men with big bald heads, huge eyes, tiny noses and Spock-like ears, as shown on "police drawings" which were projected above the lecturer.

Friedman cited several reported encounters with humans (curiously, all of them in the U.S.), the most amazing of which is the story of Betty and Barney Hill (published under the title "Interrupted Journey").

The Hills claim that in 1961, on the road back to their Portsmouth, New Hampshire home they were taken on board a flying saucer along with Sparkey, their dog. While Barney was undergoing "scientific" examination by the aliens, Betty engaged in a casual chat with their leader (he spoke English with a "foreign" accent, but otherwise had a nice sense of humour), and he showed her a three-dimensional map of a part of our galaxy.

Based on her recollection under hypnosis—the aliens had made sure nothing of these events was left in her conscious memory—astronomers later identified the probable home of the little grey men as the Zeta reticuli complex, a system of

two sunlike stars about 37 light years from here.

Friedman, who has spoken to Betty Hill, believes this story. In fact, he finds it all the more credible because the Zeta reticuli complex is similar to our solar system but a billion years older, so it could well be inhabited by creatures similar to us, yet much more advanced.

Aliengate

The audience seemed to find all of this a bit hard to swallow, despite Friedman's assertion that no argument against him can stand.

"How come we don't hear about this? Why is it not accepted by the community?" Friedman asked rhetorically, voicing the thoughts of many audience members.

Friedman claims that for the past half century or so, world governments, and in particular the U.S. government, has kept this, the biggest story of the millenia, under a very tight lid.

From 1947 to 1952, a huge study of thousands of UFO cases was commissioned by the US Air Force. Its findings were summed up in "Project Blue Book Special Report #14", famous among UFO buffs. According to Friedman, this report contains irrefutable evidence that alien spacecraft have come to earth. But only a sanitized "summary" affirming the contrary, was released by the government.

Friedman explained the reasoning behind the "aliengate" cover up: first of all, the alien technology seems so powerful that anyone possessing it could dominate the

world, so that by keeping it secret, every country could keep whatever clues it has to itself. Secondly, the governments fear that should the public find out about the aliens, we might start to think of ourselves as a world community among others in the universe, thereby diminishing our allegiance to our respective earthly nations. "They are afraid of the consequences of pushing what Copernicus started by taking the center of the universe away from our planet Earth."

How could such a huge secret, involving many different types of ordinary people, all over the world (assuming, logically, that these events did not only occur in the U.S.), have been kept for so long?

Friedman backed himself up with an endless series of "Top Secret" documents he claims to have obtained from the CIA, NSC, and the FBI.

He credited the lack of support for the idea of flying saucers from the scientific community and the media to a "laughter curtain". They won't accept it, he claimed, even though it is the only logical thing to do, because they are afraid of ridicule.

Friedman ended his lecture on a moral tone. "Flying saucers are definitely real, so we had better change our attitude towards them," he said, reminding us that the greatest leaps of progress are always made by daring people who have the courage to believe in new ideas. He urged all the "apologist ufologists" to "come out of the closet", and overcome the "laughter curtain" for the benefit of mankind.



Events Events Events

McGill New Age Society: General gathering to celebrate official recognition. Discussion and refreshments. All welcome. Bienvenue aux francophones. Tonight at 19h30 in Union 302. For more info, call 495-2965.

McGill Christian Fellowship: Meeting this Friday (March 3) at 19h in Leacock 26 for a talk on the Holy Spirit with Paul Garnet.



McGill

Vice Principal (Planning)

The University invites nominations and applications for the position of Vice-Principal (Planning). The appointment, effective August 1, 1989, is normally a five-year term and may be renewed.

Reporting to the Principal, the Vice-Principal (Planning) will be responsible for institutional planning and research; relations with government departments and administrative bodies, and with other universities; and computer services including the Computing Centre, microcomputer support, data networks, and the telephone and data communications system. Candidates should have appropriate scholarly and administrative experience. Fluency in both English and French is desirable.

In accordance with Canadian Immigration requirements, this advertisement is directed to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

Nominations and applications, accompanied by a curriculum vitae and the names of three referees, if possible, should be submitted by March 31, 1989, to:

David L. Johnston
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
McGill University
845 Sherbrooke Street West
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...technological frontiers

continued from page 1

a community of Christians devoted to God and worthy of His blessing.

The Puritan ideals were high and virtually impossible to maintain. Winner showed that soon after the establishment of the colonies, many sermons were being delivered that suggested that the colonists were falling from God's grace.

But Winner feels that "these sermons were also imbued with a sense of optimism." He added, "the colonists believed that, although they had failed their goal would nevertheless be realized in the future, and that eventually ideals and reality would become one."

This theme pervaded much of the rhetoric of the times. The frontier, and the unpredictable future associated with it, was thought to have the power to fulfill all possible dreams.

Towards the end of the 19th century, America's geographical frontiers had all been conquered. Freedom and democracy, the ideals associated with the American expanse and her frontiers were far from fully realized. But without a frontier there would be no medium in which to pursue these goals.

To the rescue came new frontiers in science and technology.

"It would be the test tube and the microscope that would conquer this

frontier, as opposed to the axes and the rifles used in the past," said Winner. He also pointed out that many writers of the early 20th century saw science as the salvation of humankind.

This tendency to place the responsibility for our future well-being in the hands of scientists is viewed as a rather optimistic convention by Winner. It excludes the notion of responsibility from the present. Consequently we are troubled little by ecological and economic problems, for deep down we believe that their answers will be provided by science and technology. Winner suggested that "such mentality represents a sort of prolonged childhood."

Currently one of our major frontiers is space. Its exploitation is exemplified by the SDI program proposed by Ronald Reagan in March of 1983. Before this project was officially named Star Wars, it was appropriately dubbed High Frontier. Winner explained that the overwhelming success of this initiative lies not in its plausibility, but in its representation of another instance of Americans conquering the frontier.

Winner also addressed other frontiers, such as the boundary between organism and artifice, and various aspects of biotechnology

such as pharmaceuticals and synthetic hormones. But his main argument was the boundary between humanity and technology, and how the distinction may be fading.

According to Winner, given the direction of our current momentum in biology, we may soon be able to alter significantly the human genome. Eventually we may have the ability to even select which traits we prefer for our offspring.

Soon we will be able to alter that which is human. When such a time arrives, will we recognize the integrity of human beings—their wholeness, authenticity and their uniqueness—or will we conceive of ourselves as bundles of discrete and separate features? Worse still, will we see ourselves as a mass of defects ripe for improvement by genetic dissection?

We have a new and ironic situation in which we are both the pioneers and the frontier simultaneously. When the New World was settled, the Native Americans were swindled and slaughtered. The colonists did not respect the integrity of the Native peoples or their culture. This was simply the manifestation of the colonists' mission. Who can say for certain that Winner is wrong and that we will not exert a similar aggressiveness on our new frontier?

Come for important issues, great company and good coffee ...

Feminism and the Jewish Mystique

Women in Judaism ... three steps behind?

Lecturer: Rabbi Ronnie Fine

TODAY, 8:00 p.m.

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